

PROCEEDINGS
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GENERIC NAMES OF SOME CHELYID TURTLES.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

The generic name *Hydraspis* Bell is currently applied to a group of South American Chelyid turtles which has Schweigger's *Emys geoffroana* as type. This practice is quite erroneous, however.

The name was instituted by Thomas Bell in 1828 (Journ. Zool., vol. 3, p. 512). In doing so he said: "I had long ago believed that *Testudo longicollis* might prove to be the type of a genus, and subsequent observations upon several other species has convinced me that the conjecture was correct," and further down, in enumerating the species which he includes in this genus he begins with "*Testudo longicollis*, which I consider the type." This is consequently a case to which Art. 30, sec. a of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature applies directly, viz: "When in the original publication of a genus, one of the species is definitely designated as type, this species shall be accepted as type regardless of any other considerations. (Type by original designation.)"

It is of no consequence that Bell in another paper printed immediately after the one alluded to above, under the genus *Hydraspis* designates another species as type as follows: "Sp. typ. *H. galcata* (*Testudo galcata*. Anct.)" (Journ. Zool. vol. 3, 1828, p. 515), especially since this action of his has nothing to do with the subsequent one of Gray in diverting *Hydraspis* to the group represented by *E. geoffroana*.

But by designating *T. longicollis* as the type of *Hydraspis*, Bell overlooked the fact that Fitzinger two years previously had designated the same species as type of *Chelodina*. In his Neue Clas-

sification der Reptilien, 1826, p. 6, Fitzinger says that "Oppel indicated the separation of *Emys longicollis* and its consorts which I include in my genus *Chelodina*." *Hydraspis*, therefore, is only a synonym of *Chelodina* and must disappear as a valid generic term.

The question now arises as to the proper name for the genus currently known by this term.

In 1830 Wagner (Syst. Amph., p. 134) established the genus *Rhinemys* for four species, viz.: *Emys rufipes* Spix; *E. nasuta* Schweigger; *E. radiolata* Mikan; and *E. gibba* Schweigger, without designating any type. This was done in 1843 by Fitzinger (Syst. Rept., p. 29) who specifically designated *Rhinemys rufipes* Wagler as the type. Wagler in the same publication, but on a subsequent page (Syst. Amph., 1830, p. 135), established the monotypic genus *Phrynops* for *Emys geoffroana*. These two species have since proved to be congeneric, and one of the generic terms applied to them must serve for the combined genus. Here Art. 28 of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature provides as follows: "A genus formed by the union of two or more genera or subgenera takes the oldest valid generic or subgeneric name of its components. If the names are of the same date, that selected by the first reviser shall stand." The first reviser in this case was J. E. Gray (Cat. Tortois., Brit. Mus., 1844, p. 41), who included both *E. geoffroana* and *E. rufipes* in the same genus, for which he selected *Phrynops* as the name, at the same time distinctly giving "*Phrynops* and *Rhinemys* Wagler" as synonyms. This action consequently "shall stand," to use the phrase of the International Rules.

By this combined action of Fitzinger and Gray the genus represented by Schweigger's *Emys nasuta* is deprived of a valid name. Boulenger (Cat. Chel. Brit. Mus., 1889, p. 217) applied to it Wagler's name *Rhinemys*, but as we have seen, the type of the latter, as designated by Fitzinger, is *E. rufipes*. There being no other name available I propose to call this genus **Batrachemys** (from βατραχος, frog; εμψ, turtle).

The synonymies of these genera, as here mentioned, would then stand as follows:

Chelodina Fitzinger.

1826. *Chelodina* Fitzinger, Neue Classif. Rept., p. 6 (type, by orig. desig. *Emys longicollis*).

1828. *Hydraspis* Bell, Zool. Journ., vol. 3, p. 512 (type, by orig. desig. *Testudo longicollis*).

Includes the following species:

1. *Chelodina longicollis* (Shaw).
2. *Chelodina novae-guineæ* Boulenger.
3. *Chelodina expansa* Gray.
4. *Chelodina siebenrocki* Werner.
5. *Chelodina oblonga* Gray.

Phrynops Wagler.

1830. *Rhinemys* Wagler, Syst. Amph., p. 134 (type, by subsequent desig. by Fitzinger in 1843, *R. rufipes*).
1830. *Phrynops* Wagler, Syst. Amph., p. 135 (monotype, *Emys geoffroana* Schweigger).

Includes the following species:

1. *Phrynops geoffroana* (Schweigger).
2. *Phrynops hilarii* (Duméril and Bibron).
3. *Phrynops tuberosa* (Peters).
4. *Phrynops rufipes* (Spix).
5. *Phrynops wagleri* (Duméril and Bibron).

Batrachemys Stejneger.

1889. *Rhinemys* Boulenger, Cat. Chel. Brit. Mus., p. 217 (monotype, *Emys nasuta*, Schweigger) (not of Wagler as restricted by Fitzinger, 1843).

Includes:

1. *Batrachemys nasuta* (Schweigger).

